States/Uts. 12 States/TUs have notified the redressal machinery and approval of the Central Government has been conveyed to the remaining four States. These Commissions/Forums are expected to start functioning soon.

(c) At present, no Government service has been exempted from the purview of the Act.

Implementation of Bachhawat Wage Award in the UNI

*268. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UNI Employees' Federation has recently represented to Government about the faulty and partial implementation of the Bachhawat Wage Award by the Management of the UNI;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government for the proper implementation of the Bachhawat Wage Award by the Management of the UNI?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A representation from the United News of India (UNI) has been received on 20th March, 1990 alongwith copy of a letter of October 16, 1989 which was jointly signed by the Management and the Employees' Union of UNI and a copy of the Memorandum of Settlement reached between the management and the employees of UNI. The representation seeks certain clarifications on the demands of the Workers' Union:

(c) The Government have asked all States/Union Territories to enforce the Bachhawat Wage Board recommendations and to ensure their proper implementation in all newspaper establishments and news agencies.

Drought-hit areas in the country

*269. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas and the districts in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere in the country hit by drought last year;

(b) whether any request for central assistance for providing drought relief in these areas have been made by the respective State Governments; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response for extending drought relief to these States?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Only the Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reported damage due to drought conditions in some parts of their States due to inadequate rains during South-West Monsoon period of 1989 and sought central assistance. The number of villages and districts affected by drought conditions, as reported by these States is as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Number of Affected	
		Villages	Districts
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Not reported	12
2	Madhya Pradesh .	8114	16
3	Rajasthan . .	13907	25
4	Uttar Pradesh .	34723	27

(b) and (c) Governments of Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh submitted memoranda seeking central assistance for drought relief. A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 6.24 crore to Jammu & Kashmir, Rs. 18.17 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 16.77 crore to Rajasthan and Rs. 14.55 crore to Uttar Pradesh has been approved.